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REPORT
OF THE SELECTMEN OF THE
TOWN OF CROYDON,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDNIG MARCH, 1857.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Outstanding Debts prior to April 1st, 1856.

Paid, as follows: —

E. Mitchell, for opening 1 grave 1854,	1 25	
W. C. Allen, enrolling and returning soldiers 1855,	2 50	
D. R. Hall's note and interest,	36 18	
John G. Putnam, interest on note,	18 00	
Lester Blanchard, note and interest,	116 60	
Jonathan Emerson, note and interest,	212 50	
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		387 03
State Tax,	168 70	
County Tax,	256 23	
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		424 93
M. C. Bartlett, School-house tax Dist. No. 5,		30 00

Paid for the support of Schools, as follows: —

District No. 1. Paid George Stockwell,	63 79	
2. Alanson C. Barton,	155 50	
3. Hiram C. Brown,	92 02	
4. Alfred Cutting,	29 48	
5. Edward B. Kempton,	53 99	
6. Caleb Barton,	30 89	
7. Moses Metcalf,	9 90	
8. Luke Paul,	6 31	
9. Lorenzo Dow,	9 50	
10. Elias Powers,	12 36	
11. S. B. Rowell,	1 13	
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		464 87

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

Pauper Bills from April 1st, 1856, to April 1st, 1857.

Paid, as follows:—

Lucy Kelsey, for support of L. Emerson,	48 00
S. Ames, support of L. Chase & child, extra 7 00,	52 00
M. Metcalf, support of John Hyde & wife,	36 00
S. Kempton, support of Lucia Freeman, extra 2 00,	28 00
Joseph Crooker, support of Ellen Kennerson,	36 00
B. Barton, support of Eugene and Mary Kennerson, and clothes, 11 27,	91 27
N. L. Shedd, support of T. Winter & wife, extra 13 62	113 63
H. Dow, support Wm. Allen & wife 3 wks. 4 days,	13 00
do do 18 weeks 2 days,	45 25
do do 4 weeks,	12 00
do 1 box pills ,25, 2 coffins 10 00, funeral expenses 5 00,	15 25
D. Harding, support of L. Harding,	40 00
B. Humphrey, support of D. Hall,	50 00
Ruel Durkee, support of E. Powers,	90 00
V. B. Carroll, support of H. Elliott,	88 00
Henry Barton, support of L. A. Squires,	6 00
O. C. Forehand, one cord wood for C. F. Hall,	1 75
E. D. Comings, 11 lbs. veal, 4 lbs. butter, repairing fence, for C. F. H.	1 90
S. Powers, for hoeing garden for C. F. H.	3 00
Ruel Durkee, house rent, land and taxes C. F. H.	15 76
John Darling, pair boots for C. F. H.	2 25
do sawing wood for C. F. H.	1 00
do tapping boots for D. Hall,	50
do tapping boots for D. Hall,	60
do tapping and heeling for D. Hall,	75
do repairing for D. Hall,	25
do one pair boots for Kennerson boy,	2 00
N. P. Stevens, for planting C. F. H. garden,	1 00
H. C. Brown, medicine for H. Elliott,	50
Mrs. Kelton, making robe for H. Elliott,	35
do do Wm. Allen,	35
B. Humphrey, making pr. shirts for D. Hall,	40
M. C. Bartlett, boarding C. Rawson 5 wks. 4 d.	2 50
do 1 1-4 bushels corn for A. Rawson,	1 25
D. R. Hall, 34 lbs. flour 2 00, 14 1-2 lbs. pork 2 03, for N. E. B.	4 03
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H. Hersey, 1 barrel flour for C. F. Hall,	9 50
H. C. Brown, 1 bushel corn for A. Rawson,	1 00
M. C. Shedd, for making clothing for H. Elliott,	2 00
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804 54	

Barton & Adams, bill of goods for C. F. Hall, from June 11 to Oct. 11,	37 12
Barton & Adams, for H. Elliott,	5 92
do Wm. Allen,	1 31
do W. Allen and wife,	3 75
do A. Rawson,	12 43
do E. Powers,	60
do D. Hall,	1 78
S. George, for coffin for H. Elliott,	5 00
Barton & Adams, robe for Wm. Allen,	1 91
O. Cooper, for 6 lbs. 40-dwt. nails,	30
do 9 1-2 yards sheeting,	77
do making frock for E. Powers,	25
do making two shirts for E. Powers,	50
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Repairing Roads and Bridges.

Paid, as follows:—

A. G. Barton and J. A. Barton, repairing mountain road,	30 00
G. W. Barton, for repairing road,	5 00
G. Stockwell and M. Putnam, for building P. Hook bridge,	25 01
G. Stockwell, 5 days work repairing Carroll bridge,	6 50
H. Putnam, 3 days work and lumber, 1 00,	3 50
E. D. Comings, for repairing road,	5 00
O. C. Forehand, for repairing road,	12 00
D. D. Marsh and O. Putnam, for repairing road,	17 00
H. Rowell, for repairing road,	25 00
Simon Ames, for repairing road,	23 50
M. A. Barton, for repairing G. Humphrey bridge,	70 00
E. D. Comings, for 112 ft. plank,	1 12
H. Rowell, for 187 ft. plank,	1 87
J. Ferry, 290 ft. 2½-in., 378 ft. 2-in. and 2 logs 1 00,	8 39
W. Stockwell, for 495 ft. plank,	4 95
do for repairing C. Barton bridge,	5 00
Ruel Durkee, for 225 ft. plank, timber 0 75,	3 00
H. Haynes, for 1 day work on C. B. bridge,	1 00
L. Heath, for work on bridge and use of team,	2 00
D. D. Marsh, for 350 ft. plank,	3 50
P. Hall, for 313 ft. plank,	3 13
do for repairing Burr bridge,	1 25
J. C. Crooker, damage by mountain being blocked,	5 00
L. P. Cooper, for plank,	2 50
Williams Metcalf, for breaking road, 4 days work,	3 00
O. Cooper, for 150 ft. plank,	1 50
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Incidental Expenses, &c.

Paid, as follows:—

T. G. Powers, lock for Town-house,	25	
D. D. Marsh, for returning births and deaths,	30	
W. M. Whipple, for auctioneer,	1 00	
Pliny Hall, for clerk,	50	
Glass for Town-house,	30	
H. Hersey, for setting glass,	30	
H. C. Brown, for stationery and blanks, &c.	1 50	
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		4 15
D. D. Marsh, for visits and medicine as follows:—		
6 visits W. Allen's wife,	5 50	
18 visits H. Elliott,	17 50	
6 visits L. Chase,	6 00	
visits for L. Freeman and T. Winter & wife,	3 50	
Williams Barton, visits and medicine as follows:—		
visits for Lucy A. Squires,	4 41	
124 visits David Harding,	31 00	
19 visits H. Elliott,	14 16	
visits Wm. Allen and wife,	9 02	
12 visits C. F. Hall,	7 00	
visits L. Harding,	2 50	
7 visits N. E. Beers' child,	7 00	
Dr. Sanborn, visits for L. Emerson,	9 36	
do 2 visits for N. E. Beers' child,	3 00	
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		119 95
E. Mitchell, for opening 6 graves,	9 00	
D. E. Carroll, 6	10 00	
Simon Ames, 1	1 25	
R. Cooper, 1	1 50	
C. Day and C. F. Hall, 1	1 50	
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		23 25
H. C. Brown, services as Selectman,	30 00	
E. D. Comings, services as Selectman,	25 00	
M. C. Bartlett, services as Selectman,	20 00	
N. P. Stevens, services as Collector of Taxes,	15 00	
John Cooper, services as Sup. School Comm.	15 00	
do tolling bell,	3 50	
Nathan Hall, services as Town Clerk,	10 50	
do enrolling and returning soldiers,	2 50	
W. C. Allen, enrolling and returning soldiers,	2 50	
Williams Barton, as Liquor Agent,	30 00	
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		154 00
Abatement taxes, N. E. Beers, 1855, interest,	2 09	
S. Cooper,	2 09	
Isaac Goward,	7 57	

Abatement taxes, R. P. Burt,	1851	1 60
R. P. Carroll,		1 60
Amos Rawson,	1855	2 09
James Carroll,		2 09
D. Thompson,	1856	14
Nathan Hall,		3 50
Albert G. Barton,		3 50
F. B. Clark,		1 69
D. B. Putnam,		1 40
Wm. M. Whipple,		12 37
O. C. Forehand,		7 13
James Pollard,	1855	3 47
Charles Beers,		4 19
E. Mitchell,		2 33
C. F. Hall,		2 09

Total Amount paid out for the year ending April 1st.

Outstanding Debts prior to April 1st,	387 03
State & County Tax, and School-house No. 5,	454 93
School Money,	464 87
Pauper Expenses, April 1, 1856 to April 1, 1857,	888 68
Repairing Roads and Bridges,	269 72
Incidental Expenses,	4 15
Doctors' Bills,	119 95
Opening Graves,	23 25
Town Officers,	154 00
Abatements,	60 00
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The Selectmen have credited the Town, for the year ending April 1st, 1857, as follows:—

List of Taxes assessed in April last,	2023 79
Literary Fund,	61 60
Interest on School Notes,	61 88
Proceeds of Wm. Allen's goods,	28 60
County of Sullivan, support of N. E. Beers' child,	13 03
Town of Cornish, for support of Lucy A. Squires,	10 41
Williams Barton, Liquor Agent,	85 00
Use of C. Rawson's land,	5 00
A. Rawson, for pig,	11 84

Total Receipts,	\$ 2301 15
Total amount paid out,	2826 58
Paid more than received,	525 43

Which is paid by Note given Hall & Shedd.

Leaving in the hands of Treasurer, 54 86

The Town owe a Note to Amasa Hall,	350 00
John G. Putnam,	300 00
Nathaniel L. Shedd,	230 23

Leaving balance against the Town, of \$ 880 23

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. C. BROWN,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
E. D. COMINGS,	
M. C. BARTLETT,	

of
Croydon.

Report

OF THE SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The Superintending School Committee is required by law to present to the town at its annual meeting, a statement of the condition of its Schools. In compliance with this requirement, the following Report is respectfully submitted. To save space, and afford a birds-eye view of the statistics of our schools, I have prepared the following

TABLE.

No. of District.	Terms—1 representing the summer and 2 the winter term.	Names of Teachers.	Length of Schools in weeks.	Whole number of Scholars.	Average number that have attended school.	Instances of tardiness.	Instances of Dismissal.	Number of visits of citizens.	Wages of Teacher per month.
1	1	Miss Juliet H. Fisher,	10	37	29	86	4	25	8 00
	2	Miss Juliet H. Fisher,	8		30	181	31	10	10 00
	1	Miss Lorane I. Fisher,	8		35	62	6	20	12 00
2	2	Miss Augusta M. Cooper,	9 1-2	63	26			10	11 00
	2	Rev. Robert Stinson,	9 1-2		26	86	96	23	24 00
3	1	Miss L. M. Kibbey,	9	43	21			15	
	2	Mr. Oren C. Kibbey,	8		39			10	27 50
4	2	Mr. Horace F. Goss,	11	16	13	16	6	8	16 00
5	1	Miss Aurora W. Fletcher,	6	30	18	22	0	0	
	2	Mr. William W. Darling,	12		23	30	8	12	14 00
6	2	Mr. Addison A. Powers,	7 1-2	16	11	35	3	10	22 00

DISTRICT No. 1. — The *Summer Term* of this school was a well conducted and profitable one. The discipline was good, and embraced not only the regulations of the school-room, but extended to the *morals* of the pupils. Profanity — the bane of good manners and correct morals — was soon banished from school. The progress in the various studies was such as to be creditable both to teacher and pupils. The inhabitants of the district were so well satisfied with the school that the term was lengthened out two weeks by voluntary contributions.

But the character of the summer school was not fully sustained throughout the *Winter Term*. The discipline was not so exact during the latter as the former: and there seemed to be, on the part of some of the pupils, a want of that deferential respect, which should ever be paid to the teacher. On my second visit to this school I found, as a consequence of this state of things, that, while the smaller scholars had made a very laudable degree of progress, the advancement of some of the larger ones was not so apparent. The inhabitants of this district have not yet wiped out the disgrace of using an old dilapidated building for a school-house. When will they learn wisdom, and build such a house as is imperatively demanded?

DISTRICT No. 2. — The *First Term* was a good school. The teacher was active, and well qualified to give instruction; and she was indefatigable in her exertions to promote the welfare of the school. Consequently, as a general thing, the pupils made a good degree of advancement in their studies. The influence of the teacher on the deportment and morals of her pupils, was most salutary.

I hardly know how to speak in fitting terms of the *Juvenile Department* of the *Winter School*. The order was perfect; the method of instruction systematic and thorough; and the progress made, as rapid as was consistent with thoroughness. Indeed, with respect to discipline, system, progress, and every thing else, necessary to constitute a good school, it was a model of its kind, and gave abundant evidence that it was in the hands of a teacher every way qualified to discharge her duty.

The *Principal Department* was in charge of a learned and successful teacher. He brought to the work a large share of practical experience — having taught *thirty-four* terms before. Under his judicious management the downward tendency of the school was arrested and progress made in the right direction. A few more sessions as judiciously managed as the last, would restore to this school, all its pristine vigor. A number of experienced and successful teachers reside in this district, enough to supply its wants. These, in my opinion, should have employment here, year after year, at remunerative wages. That is, Prudential Committees of this District should not look elsewhere for teachers. They will act wisely in securing the services of those successful teachers, though at a price twice as large as the district has been in the habit of paying.

DISTRICT No. 3. — The *Summer Session* of this school was a model one. The teacher was analytical and thorough in her instruction, and exhibited much tact in the management of her business. The improvement of her pupils has added another laurel to her well-earned reputation as an instructress.

The *Winter School* began favorably. I visited it near its commencement, and found every thing as it should be. I found a well qualified teacher, who was both active and energetic; about thirty intelligent pupils, and a house suitable for their accommodation. — In fact, I found there all the elements of a good school, and I anticipated much pleasure in visiting it again. A day was appointed for the closing examination. But, when it arrived, the extreme inclemency of the weather, together with the impassable state of the roads, rendered it impossible to fulfil the appointment. I regret the failure, but it was unavoidable. From what I saw myself, and from what I have been told by others, especially by our School Commissioner, I have no doubt that the school fulfilled the promise of its most ardent friends. A single fact shows the estimation in which the services of Mr. Kibbey were held by his employers: Soon after the close of the public school, a private one, which nearly all of the children in the district attended, was kept by the same teacher. The inhabitants of this district did well in securing the services of Miss and Mr. Kibbey for the last two years.

DISTRICT No. 4. — But one term of school was taught in this district during the past season, as the small amount of money belonging to it would not justify the employment of a summer teacher. The *Winter Term*, though short, was a profitable one. The easy manners of the teacher, and his ready tact for communicating knowledge, render him a useful instructor. In reading, spelling, writing, geography and arithmetic, there was a very marked improvement. I trust that the parents in this district will endeavor to retain the services of Mr. Goss as long as they can be secured for a reasonable compensation. It appears that they already, in a good measure, appreciate his services; for they have not only employed him two consecutive years to teach their public school, but have just lengthened out their school some weeks by voluntary subscriptions.

DISTRICT No. 5. — This District, within a few years, has become, comparatively, one of importance. Its number of scholars has nearly doubled. The *Summer School* commenced auspiciously. The teacher was active, and heartily engaged in her labors; and the pupils appeared to be docile and studious. But owing to the failing health of Miss Fletcher, these pleasing anticipations were not fully realized. It may be justly said, however, that, under the circumstances, the closing examination was creditable alike to teacher and pupils.

A fair degree of improvement was made during the *Winter Term*, particularly in spelling, writing, geography, and arithmetic. This was the teacher's first effort. But, bringing his whole energies to the work, and laboring assiduously, early and late, for the improvement of his pupils, he produced results, which would bring no discredit on older and more experienced teachers. Should he, with his present ardor and industry, follow school-keeping as a profession, the time is not far distant when he will become a distinguished teacher.

DISTRICT No. 6. — Owing to the want of funds, no *Summer* school was taught. The *Winter Term*, though brief, was a profitable one, a marked improvement being very appar-

ent at the closing examination. Some three or four of the pupils of this school would be first rate scholars, had they an opportunity of becoming such. But here are about a dozen children, who attended school less than *eight* weeks the last year; nor have their advantages for schooling been much better for a number of years past. Under the circumstances, the literary standing of some of the pupils is highly creditable to their parents, their teachers, and themselves. Something should be speedily done for the relief of the children of this and some of the other small districts.

From the foregoing remarks you will probably infer that, for the past year, your schools have been prosperous. They have been. There may be individual exceptions; but, as a general thing, your schools of to-day occupy as proud a position, as they have at any time within the last twenty years. The daily sessions were commenced by reading lessons from the Bible; and they were frequently closed by singing pieces of a moral character, adapted to the occasion. The salutary effect of these exercises were very apparent.—What is now principally wanted to make your schools all they are capable of becoming, is a proper appreciation of the value of a *good* school.

Our public schools are generally *too short*. During the past year we have had but one session as long as 12 weeks; while some of them have been of less than 8 weeks duration. Now, any one at all acquainted with the subject, must be aware that the children in Districts No. 2 and No. 3, should have an opportunity of attending school as much as 24 weeks annually; while those in the other districts should have at least 20 weeks of schooling in the same time. And parents are guilty of a dereliction of duty unless they do their utmost to provide their children with that amount of schooling. We are behind the times. It is highly important that we raise more money for school purposes. While within a few years, wages and the price of board have nearly doubled, we have only raised the amount of money which the law compelled us to raise. If you wish to have your children educated, you must cultivate a liberal spirit, and cheerfully appropriate more money for that purpose than the law requires. It has been done with advantage in other towns — and why not here? Are we more parsimonious than our neighbors?

Some of our schools must be necessarily short as long as the present inequality exists in the size of the districts. Two or three of them draw nearly all of the money. For instance, No. 2 the last year drew more than \$155; while No. 4 received less than \$30. When the town, in 1834, was divided into school districts, it is probable that the division was made in the most judicious manner possible. But since that time a current of emigration has been moving constantly onward; and it is still draining our hillsides and valleys, and rendering some of our districts too small and feeble to support schools. Some parts of the town have suffered less by this process than others. For, owing to the favorable location of some of the larger districts, they have, by annexation and the natural effects of centralization, become relatively stronger and stronger, at the expense of their less favored neighbors.

In some parts of the town the terms of your schools might be lengthened and made more profitable, by the *union of contiguous districts*. It appears to me that No. 5 and No. 6 might be united with mutual advantage. The only objection to the measure is the increase of travel to which it would subject some of the scholars. The aggregate amount of money, assigned to these districts the last year, was about \$86. This sum, with what should be assessed voluntarily by the town, would furnish the children of the united districts with more than six months of schooling annually. Now, would not the facilities of acquiring an education in such a district, more than counterbalance all the inconveniences of having to travel a mile or two further to school than heretofore? It should be borne in mind, also, while examining the subject, that large schools are generally better able to command the services of a first rate teacher, than small ones. Viewed from any stand-point, the advantages of the proposed measure are so apparent that they can neither be controverted nor ignored.—In my opinion, too, District No. 8 should be united with No. 4. The former, at present, occupies an anomalous position, having no school of its own, and neglecting to unite with any other one for that purpose. It should be permitted to remain so no longer. I ask, could not the schoolhouse of No. 4 be placed on a spot so nearly central that a union of No. 4, No. 8 and No. 9 could be effected with benefit to all parties? I ask the question for the purpose of eliciting inquiry — and action if necessary. Having no space to enlarge on the subject, the foregoing suggestions are respectfully submitted to the candid consideration of the inhabitants of the respective districts.

JOHN COOPER.